

VZCZCXRO9224
PP RUEHKN RUEHKB RUEHJM RUEHPB
DE RUEHSV #0452 2972352
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 242352Z OCT 06
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3375
INFO RUEHJM/AMEMBASSY MAJURO 0606
RUEHKN/AMEMBASSY KOLONIA 0157
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY KOROR 0091
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 0918
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1314
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 1103
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0206
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0076
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0104
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 0037
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 0166
RHHJJAA/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SUVA 000452

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CH](#) [TW](#) [FJ](#)

SUBJECT: PRC PROTESTS A/S HILL'S PLANNED MEETING WITH TAIWAN VICE
FOREIGN MINISTER IN FIJI

Ref. Beijing 22496

1. (SBU) Summary: China pressed on U.S. diplomats at the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) summit in Nadi, Fiji, to cancel an informal encounter between Assistant Secretary Christopher Hill and Taiwan Vice Foreign Minister Chang Siao-Yue. Beijing's new special envoy for PIF affairs, Ambassador Wang Yonggui, requested a meeting with ANP Office Director Steven McGann to argue that a Hill-Chang meeting was too high-level to be regarded as "informal" and could have negative consequences for U.S.-China relations. He obliquely warned that the meeting could somehow impact on U.S.-China efforts to deal with the North Korea situation. McGann noted to Wang that the Forum and not the United States had invited Taiwan to Nadi, based on its role as a donor nation in the Pacific. McGann said the encounter would be in line with other such occasional meetings with Taiwan officials in informal settings, consistent with standing U.S. practices and policies, of which China is well aware. He dismissed any possible linkage to the North Korea issues. Chinese Ambassador to Fiji, Cai Jinbiao, also spoke to Ambassador Dinger by phone, pushing the same points. End summary.

2. (SBU) In a hurriedly arranged meeting October 25 in Nadi, Ambassador Wang met with ANP's McGann to deliver a demarche calling on Assistant Secretary Hill not to go ahead with a meeting with Vice Minister Chang, due to arrive the evening of the 25th in Nadi. Wang said the Chinese MFA's DG for U.S. and North American Affairs had directed him to deliver the demarche. He said the MFA would also approach the U.S. Embassy in Beijing on the matter (reftel). Wang highlighted common U.S. and Chinese interests in the Pacific, and accused Taiwan of using its aid to corrupt governments in the region. He noted recent improvements in international cooperation on "Taiwan Straits" matters and urged the United States not to meet with Taiwan officials at the summit, as this would "confuse" other nations as to the U.S. position and would support the Taiwan government's efforts to legitimize its policies. Wang insisted that a meeting with an official of Hill's stature is too high-level to be seen as "informal."

3. (SBU) McGann emphasized to Wang that any encounter with representatives of Taiwan would be in keeping with the longstanding USG policies of One China, the Three Communiqués and the Taiwan Relations Act. Beijing is aware that U.S. officials occasionally meet with representatives of Taiwan in informal situations, and the meeting in Nadi would be of this character. The United States would

not discuss or mention the meeting to other delegates. Taiwan is present because the PIF secretariat had invited it as a significant donor, McGann said. He added that China and the United States have a common interest in donor coordination, good governance and the rule of law in the Pacific. The United States, he said, has no wish to be in the middle of competition between China and Taiwan in wooing Pacific Island States. He told Wang that the meeting with Chang would go ahead. He encouraged China not to focus on the Chang meeting, but instead to recognize the far greater significance of the U.S. invitation for China to attend a U.S.-hosted meeting of "Core Donor Partners" planned for October 26 in Nadi. The meeting will bring together representatives of China, Japan, Korea, the EU, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and France.

14. (SBU) Just prior to the McGann-Wang meeting, Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Cai phoned Ambassador Dinger on the issue and made the same plea that Hill not meet with Chang. The Ambassador drew on talking points provided by Washington in responding.

Dinger